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IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 1-10 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A financial document item processing system for processing checks a check having a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag associated therewith, the system comprising:

~~means defining~~ a check transport path along which ~~checks~~ the check can be transported from an upstream end of the check transport path to a downstream end of the check transport path; and

~~encoding means~~ an RFID tag endorser disposed along the check transport path and for wirelessly transmitting check endorsement data to an the RFID tag of a the check transported along the check transport path from the upstream end to the downstream end.

2. (currently amended) A system according to claim 1, further comprising ~~encoding means~~ an RFID tag encoder for wirelessly transmitting magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) encoded data to the RFID tag of the check transported along the check transport path from the upstream end to the downstream end.

3. (currently amended) A financial document item processing system for processing checks a check having a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag associated therewith, the system comprising:

~~means defining~~ a check transport path along which ~~checks~~ the check can be transported from an upstream end of the check transport path to a downstream end of the check transport path; and

~~encoding means~~ an RFID tag encoder disposed along the check transport path and for wirelessly transmitting magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) encoded data to an the RFID tag of a the check transported along the check transport path from the upstream end to the downstream end.

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4. (currently amended) A multiple-pass check processing system having an image capture workstation for processing ~~checks~~ a check having a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag associated therewith during a first pass of ~~checks~~ the check and an encoding and sorting workstation for processing ~~checks~~ the check during a second pass of ~~checks~~ the check, the system comprising:

means an image capture transport processor for processing a the check transported along a check transport path of the image capture workstation during the first pass; and

first transmitting means an RFID tag encoder disposed along a check transport path of the encoding and sorting workstation and for wirelessly transmitting magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) encoded data to an the RFID tag of the check transported along a the check transport path of the encoding and sorting workstation during the second pass.

5. (currently amended) A system according to claim 4, further comprising second transmitting means an RFID tag endorser disposed along the check transport path of the encoding and sorting workstation and for wirelessly transmitting check endorsement data to the RFID tag of the check transported along the check transport path of the encoding and sorting workstation during the second pass.

6. (currently amended) A method of operating a financial document item processing system for processing ~~checks~~ a check having a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag associated therewith, the method comprising:

wirelessly transmitting check endorsement data to an the RFID tag of a the check transported along a check transport path of the item processing system from an upstream end of the check transport path to a downstream end of the check transport path.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 6, further comprising:

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wirelessly transmitting magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) encoded data to the RFID tag of the check transported along the check transport path from the upstream end to the downstream end.

8. (currently amended) A method of operating a financial document item processing system for processing checks a check having a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag associated therewith, the method comprising:

wirelessly transmitting magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) encoded data to an the RFID tag of a the check transported along a check transport path of the item processing system from an upstream end of the check transport path to a downstream end of the check transport path.

9. (currently amended) A method of operating a multiple-pass check processing system having an image capture workstation for processing checks a check having a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag associated therewith during a first pass of checks the check and an encoding and sorting workstation for processing checks the check during a second pass of checks the check, the method comprising:

processing a the check transported along a check transport path of the image capture workstation during the first pass; and

wirelessly transmitting magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) encoded data to an the RFID tag of the check transported along a check transport path of the encoding and sorting workstation during the second pass.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 9, further comprising:
wirelessly transmitting check endorsement data to the RFID tag of the check transported along the check transport path of the encoding and sorting workstation during the second pass.